



Community Development Department Building & Safety Division

Policy No.: BDP 14
Effective: January 1, 2014
Revised Date: October 17, 2013
Initiated By: Vic Taugher, Building Official
Approved By: Gregory A. Shreeve, Sr., Chief Building Official
Subject: Backing Material in Shower and Bathtub Enclosures for All Occupancies

Sections R702.3.8 and R702.3.8.1 of the 2013 California Residential Code address the limitations of water-resistant gypsum backing board where in direct exposure to water, or in areas subject to continuous high humidity:

The City of Dublin has determined that water-resistant gypsum board is adversely affected by moisture and as such, **does not** allow direct glue-on-tile applications. Greenboard will only be allowed under solid panel wall covering (i.e., fiberglass or marble) as joints occur only in the corners. The backing material to be used for **all occupancies** shall be cementitious material or gypsum board approved for this installation.

The National Evaluation Service (NES) has provided evaluation reports on various products allowed for these uses. If a product evaluation report is not provided to the Building & Safety Division, the applicant shall provide the Division with a listing/testing report which shall be **reviewed and approved** by the Building Official.

Similar 2013 California Building Code sections which address limited installation methods are:

- Section 2509.2 - Base for tile. Regular gypsum wallboard is permitted under tile or wall panels in other walls and ceiling areas when installed in accordance with GA-216 or ASTM C 840.
- Section 2509.3 - Limitations. Water-resistant gypsum backing board shall not be used in the following locations:
 1. Over a vapor retarder in shower or bathtub compartments.
 2. Where there will be direct exposure to water or in areas subject to continuous high humidity.
 3. On ceilings where frame spacing exceeds 12 inches o.c. for ½-inch water-resistant backing board and more than 16 inches o.c. for 5/8-inch water-resistant gypsum backing board.

The Building & Safety Division has determined that greenboard is not a moisture-resistant material.